

09/554 793

11/28/00

Docket No. RDID 0043 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Volker Zimmer

Application No.: 09/554,793

Group No.: To Be Assigned

Filed: May 19, 2000

Examiner: To Be Assigned

For: Capillary Active Test Element Having An Intermediate Layer Situated Between The Support And The Covering

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments prior to examination of the above-referenced application:

IN THE CLAIMSPlease cancel claims 1, 6 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed therein.

Please amend claims 2-4 and 7 as follows:

2. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim [1] 9, wherein at least two notches are located next to one another.
3. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim [1] 9, wherein notches are staggered on opposite sides.
4. (Amended) Device as claimed in [one of the claims 1 to 3] 9, wherein at least one of the surfaces forming the inner surface of the channel capable of capillary liquid transport is hydrophilized.